

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

IO-13 DRC-01 /100 W

----- 050330

R 242242Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7150

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7048

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CI

SUBJECT: REACTION OF CHILEAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN LIMA TO COUP

REF: STATE 186005

1. ON MORNING OF COUP, CHILEAN EMBASSY IN LIMA CLOSED ITS DOORS AND REFUSED COMMENT ON DEVELOPMENTS TO ASSEMBLED PRESS AND NUMEROUS CHILEAN RESIDENTS. ONCE TAKEOVER WAS CONFIRMED, AMBASSADOR LUIS JEREZ RAMIREZ, REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO ALLENDE AND MENTIONED AS STRONG CONTENDER FOR POSITION OF MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN AN EARLIER CHILEAN CABINET RESHUFFLE, DENOUNCED CHILEAN MILITARY AND DENIED EARLIEST REPORTS OF ALLENDE'S SUICIDE. JEREZ ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN AS AMBASSADOR.

2. OUR NAVAL ATTACHE WAS TOLD BY HIS CHILEAN COLLEAGUE THAT JEREZ WAS DISMISSED BECAUSE HE ORDER FLAG FLOWN AT HALF-MAST (AGAINST ADVICE OF HIS NAVAL ATTACHE) WHEN ALLENDE'S DEATH WAS CONFIRMED. SANTIAGO ORDER INSTRUCTING DCM GASTON ILLANES FERNANDEZ TO ASSUME DIRECTION OF EMBASSY WAS REPORTEDLY RECEIVED WITHIN HOUR OF ATTACHE'S REPORT OF FLAG INCIDENT.

3. CHARGE ILLANES HAS BEEN PUBLISHING TEXTS OF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR DECLARATION ISSUED BY JUNTA BUT HAS OTHERWISE REFRAINED FROM COMMENT. ON CHILEAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY, CHILEAN COMMUNITY
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HELD COMMEMORATIVE MASS WITH PRESENCE OF MEMBERS OF CHILEAN

DIPLOMATIC MISSION. OTHER CUSTOMARY FUNCTIONS SUCH AS VISIT TO BERNADO O'HIGGINS HOUSE OR WREATH LAYING AT SAN MARTIN MONUMENT WERE OMITTED.

4. CHILEAN MILITARY ATTACHE TOLD ARMA THAT AMBASSADOR JEREZ, PRESS ATTACHE AND "ANOTHER" EMBASSY OFFICER WOULD BE REQUIRED TO LEAVE PERU. HE SAID ALL REMAINING MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFF ARE CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE AND THAT EMBASSY IS OPERATING NORMALLY. HE COMMENTED THAT WORKLOAD HAS DOUBLED AND THAT THEY ARE WORKING SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS.

5. NOW THAT GOP HAS ANNOUNCED CONTINUATION OF RELATIONS WITH CHILE WE ANTICIPATE A NORMALIZATION OF CHILEAN EMBASSY ACTIVITIES ALTHOUGH IN A SOMEWHAT MORE SUBDUED MANNER.
BELCHER

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